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14 November 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: FBIS/Contracting Officer

FROM: Chief, Field Engineering Division

SUBJECT: INTERNET CONUS Earth Terminal

1. The Contract Review Board docket requests permission to negotiate with the contractor for an additional million dollars as a contingency. The contingency is the possible need for an earthen shield against Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) that the FBIS terminal might generate or suffer from outside sources.

2. Because of the way the FCC grants licenses, there was absolutely no benefit in allowing the prospective bidders to conduct surveys prior to submitting their proposals. In addition to saving money it eliminated uncertainities in evaluating the proposals. Further, all bidders were normalized to the same state by this action. Independent FBIS studies and surveys indicate that this contingency is by no means a certainty.

3. The cost estimate is just that, an estimate. It was derived from work done by the contractor who performed the feasibility study, Rockwell International. Their estimate was, in turn, derived from costs of similar shielding done in the U.S. What remains uncertain is the amount of shielding required, the terrain where it is to be constructed, and the labor costs. I believe that this is a conservative estimate but point out that the data base is very small. Specifically, most earth terminals are built in areas where natural (mountains, valleys, etc.) barriers can be utilized or where already existing barriers (buildings) are employed. Based on actual but limited data, FED recommends the one million dollar estimate as a viable but conservative figure. FED also realizes that this estimate is subject to revision following detailed measurements, a task that will be accomplished as one of the first action items for the winning contractor.

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